

I am in favor of retaining the Morse Code requirement for at least the Amateur Extra class of Amateur Radio license.

I have been an active licensed Amateur since 1979, and have observed other operators with and without Morse ability. I have taught classes in both theory and Morse for others preparing for license exams.

If nothing else, copying Morse Code is an exercise in concentration. The present testing requirement trains an operator to focus their attention completely for five minutes. This ability to concentrate has direct transference to voice and other modes. I have seen the improvement in discipline and concentration that learning the Code brings about. If for no other reason, this training requirement should be retained.

To those who point to Morse as an impediment to upgrade, I would say that is only psychologically true. I have seen deaf young people learn Morse, and have taught it to people from 15 to 76 years old. The only people who "can't learn the Code" are those unwilling to put forth the effort. Too much is given away today. At least those awarded the higher license classes should have a sense of having earned something.